SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA): Not a single penny is being distributed properly in Bihar. The position there is that the money sent from here will not be distributed there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your point has been recorded.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (OTHER THAN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRY DEPARTMENT) SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I told that Rs. 21 crores have been given. We are awaiting a memorandum from there. So thereafter, a central team will go there and then we shall assess and give. Please ask the other minister whether communication has been received or not. ...*(Interruptions)*

(vi) Need to introduce STD facilities in important towns of Midnapur district, West Bengal.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (CONTAI): Sir, Haria, Bajkul, Bhagwanpur, Manglamaro and Mugberia are the important towns under Contai Postal Division in the district of Midnapore, West Bengal. The people of these towns are deprived of the communication facilities through telecom-systems due to non-availability of STD connections. People, especially businessmen, have to travel about forty kilometres and more to avail of the STD facilities. In order to remove these inconveniences, the STD facilities should be introduced in the concerned telephone exchanges.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to take urgent steps to introduce the STD facilities in the telephone exchanges right now thus helping the people, living in the remote rural areas, in enjoying the telecommunication facilities.

[Translation]

(vii) Need to connect the Birth Place of Sant Ravidas, a Social Reformer, with a mellalled road.

SHRI RAMSAGAR (BARABANKI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the great social reformer Saint Ravidasji was bron in village Seer Gowardhanpur in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh, where a magnificent temple has been constructed at a cost of crores of rupees. That holy place has been visited by the former President of India Shri Giani Zail Singh Ji, former Deputy Prime Minister of India Babu Jag Jiwan Ramji and many ministers and eminent politicians apart from lakhs of persons from our country and abroad visiting the place daily. The villagers have built a kaccha road by voluntary labour for coming from the southern side to the temple through the village. But the road being kaccha gets damaged and broken during the rainy season, which causes great hardship to the people in reaching and coming from there. The previous state government had directed construction of this link road, but it has not been constructed as yet. At present, the state of U.P. is under President's rule and the Central Govt. in responsible for development works in U.P.

Inviting Central Govt'.s attention toward this work, I request that immediate orders may kindly be passed to the Administration of U.P. to construct this important link road immediately to facilitate passage of the people to the birth place of the great social reformer, Sant Ravidasji Maharaj.

(viii) Need to include Dhobi Community of Andhra Pradesh in the List of Scheduled Caste Category.

[English]

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA (KAKINADA) : Sir, the Washermen Community in the country is being called by various names, namely, Dhobis, Rajakas, Chakali, Washermen, etc. The nomenclature differs from State to State. Most of these people are doing most menial services next to scavergers. They wash clothes of people from different walks of life including hospitals, etc. They live in the outskirts of villages even today. In 15 States out of 25 States in the country, the Dhobi Community has been included in the list of Scheduled Castes. Though there is a demand from the Dhobis of Andhra Pradesh for inclusion of their caste in Scheduled Caste category and recommended by former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh during late Shri Rajiv Gandhi's tenure as Prime Minister, no action has been taken to fulfill the aspirations of this community from Andhra Pradesh. I feel that Dhobis from Andhra Pradesh are discriminated by not being included in Scheduled Caste category whereas their breathem of some of the Southern States have the benefit of SC status. I would, therefore, request the Government to take appropriate steps to include Dhobi/Rajakas community in Andhra Pradesh in the list of Scheduled category at the earliest.

14.38 hrs

GENERAL BUDGET 1996-97—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS*

Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment

and

Ministry of Agriculture

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now the House may take up Item Nos. 14 and 15 together relating to Demands for Grants under the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment and Ministry of Agriculture.

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*Moved with the recommendation of the President.